



Docket No.: 80319(302753)
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Hitoshi Suzuki et al.

Application No.: 10/561,539

Confirmation No.: 9393

Filed: February 28, 2007

Art Unit: 3725

For: RING COMPRESSION DEVICE AND RING
COMPRESSION METHOD

Examiner: S. M. Jennings

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

MS Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir/Madam:

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

In response to the Office Action dated November 23, 2009, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 9-16 as unpatentable over Oetiker (previously applied) in view of U.S. Patent 4,434,645 to Svercl et al. (hereinafter "Svercl et al.").

As noted in Applicants' last response, Oetiker discloses an apparatus for installing clamping rings. A machine fastens a compression ring on an object to be fastened by shrinking the ring in which segmental actuating slide members are movable within a housing along circular paths with a constant radius about a center, and in which segments on the inside of the slide members are operable to move a limited distance in the radial direction; the segmental slide members are provided with internal surface portions of non-constant radial distance from a center, and the segments are provided with surface portions for abutment with the non-concentric surface portions on the inside of the slide members; an actuating mechanism operatively connected with the